REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed in response to the paper filed by the Applicant on May 9, 2005. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment alleges that newly added claims are not properly marked. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic discussion on August 23, 2005 to discuss the issue of non-compliancy.

In the paper filed on May 9, 2005 claims 20-116 were marked as "Previously Amended" because claims 20-116 were introduced in a Preliminary Amendment filed on November 5, 2001. However, the Applicant subsequently filed a substitute specification on February 22, 2002 in which only claims 1-19 were included and erroneously did not include claims 20-116. In this paper, the Applicant is canceling claims 20-116 without prejudice.

The following discussion is identical to the discussion as included in the paper filed on May 9, 2005. The Applicant requests that the objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Regarding claims 1-9, the Office Action alleges that "virtual university" is "not disclosed in the specification to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to depict what a 'virtual university' is or could be." The Office Action requests that the Applicant confirm or deny the assumption that "the virtual university could be a website on a network device" with examples pointed to in the main body of the specification and the drawings. The patent application, as originally filed, discloses (Page 2, lines 19-23. Emphasis added.)

> The technique establishes a virtual university by **connecting a virtual university server and one or more users**, selects a destination within the virtual university server to interact with the one or more users, couples the one or more users through the virtual university server based on the selected destination, and establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination.

The specification further discloses (Page 202, lines 22-24.):

> Figures 87-96 are flowcharts of a virtual university system in accordance with a preferred embodiment. Processing commences at function block 87000 when a connection is made through the internet to a website associated with the virtual university such as www. vu. edu.

As disclosed above, a virtual university, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, is established by connecting (e.g., through the internet) a virtual university server to one or more

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users. Figures 87-96 provide flow diagrams that may be implemented on a virtual university server. For example, Figure 87 discloses a flow diagram corresponding to a user entering the virtual university when a connection is made. Figure 91 discloses a flow diagram when the user enters the student union. Figure 92 discloses a flow diagram when the user enters the library of the virtual university. Figures 93 and 94 provide detailed processing for administrative functions of the virtual university.

The specification further discloses an architecture for a server (e.g. page 200, lines 10-23). Figure 84 shows a block diagram, in which server computer 84000 interfaces to internet protocol network 84020. Server computer 84000 may include server system software, such as Lotus Domino, with various databases for schedules, email, discussion centers, knowledge data, and global directory information.

Regarding claims 5 and 10-19, the Office Action alleges that "virtual classroom" is "not disclosed in the specification to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to depict what a 'virtual classroom' is or could be." The Office Action requests that the Applicant point to the main body of the specification and the drawings with examples that can directly support any definitions to the feature of a "virtual classroom". The patent application, for example, presents detailed logic for a virtual classroom in Figures 95 and 96 with the corresponding description from page 207, line 7 to page 208, line 4. Figure 96 shows continued processing for a virtual classroom, in which the user accesses a resource center in function block 96000.

Regarding claims 5 and 15, the Office Action alleges that "breakout room" is "not disclosed in the specification to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to depict what 'a breakout room' is or could be." The Office Action requests that the Applicant "point to the main body of the specification and the drawings with examples that can directly support any definitions or examples to the feature of a "breakout room". The patent application, for example, provides logic in Figure 89 for accessing a breakout room (corresponding to function block 89310). The corresponding description is provided from page 203, line 17 to page 204, line 7.

As discussed above, the specification complies with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-19

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

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     Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-19 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. 6,347,333 (Eisendrath) in view of U.S. 6,078,948 (Podgorny). Regarding claim 1, the claim includes the feature of "establishing **interaction parameters** for the one or more users based on the selected destination." (Emphasis added.) For example, the specification discloses detailed logic in Figure 91, in which a user is presented a list of active people (function block 91120) if student union collaboration is desired (page 205, lines 1-12). People may be selected from the list (function block 91130). As another example, the specification discloses detailed logic of administrative office functions, in which a user views courses (function block 93120) and selects courses (function block 93130) in Figure 93. However, the combination of Eisendrath and Podgorny does <u>not</u> suggest this feature. The Office Action alleges that "Podgorny teaches establishing interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination, (e.g., col. 9, lines 38 - col. 10, line 30)." Podgorny merely discloses message groups (col. 9, line 38 – col. 10, line 30) with exemplary message sequences shown in figures 1-10. As disclosed in Podgorny, server 240 and demons 220 communicate using the defined protocol. Message groups 1-4 are used to implement session management and floor control. Message group 5 is used by the system to detect unresponsive demons. Application logic uses message group 6 to distribute events. However, Podgorny fails to even suggest interactive parameters.

     Similarly, claim 10 includes "logic that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination," and claim 11 includes "a code segment that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination." Claims 10 and 11 are patentable for at least the above reasons. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 12-14, and 16-19 ultimately depend from claims 1, 10, and 11. Thus, the Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-19.

     Claims 5 and 15 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Eisendrath and Podgorny and in further view of "what is well known in the art." However, claims 5 and 15 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 11. Because the alleged teaching of "what is well known in the art" does not make up for the deficiency of Eisendrath and Podgorny, claims 5 and 15 are patentable for at least the above reasons. Moreover the Office Action alleges that Eisendrath discloses that a user can "view a directory of other students in a class, (e.g. col. 7, lines 43-57)". Eisendrath does disclose (Col. 7, lines 52-56. Emphasis added.):
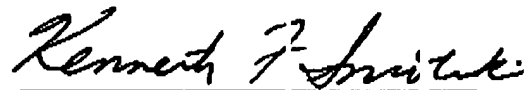
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> In one embodiment, a student can access a listing of other **students who have taken** available courses. The listing can include contact information enabling the prospective to contact the **previous course takers**.

Eisendrath merely discloses a list of students who have previously taken the course but does <u>not</u> even suggest viewing "a directory of other students in a class."

It is respectively submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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